

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 2 and 4-18 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled.

Applicant notes with appreciation that all claims are substantively allowable.

Claim 18 was rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, because the phrase on line 8 of the claim, namely “secured to and extending separately transversely ...”, was viewed as being indefinite. Applicant submits that claim 18 is definite and that the phrase in question clearly states that the respective bearer portions are secured to the decks and extend separately transversely between the decks. Nevertheless, claim 18 has been revised by stating that the bearer portions are each “secured to said decks and extending separately transversely between said decks” for purposes of clarification unrelated to patentability concerns since the meaning of the revised phrase is precisely the same as that of the original phrase.

Claim 15 has been amended by including the indefinite article “a” before “sheet material” on line 2 of the claim for purposes of clarification unrelated to patentability concerns.

In view of the foregoing, applicant requests that the Section 112 rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4 were objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of their parent claim 18.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

However, applicant submits that claim 4 is proper. It recites that the top and bottom webs are releasably securable to the respective decks. Claim 18 contains no corresponding limitation since it does not recite how the components of the pallet are secured to each other. In view thereof, applicant requests that the objection to claim 4 be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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